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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

This document provides an overall review of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People including its financial situation, estimated 1992 delivery and project highlights.

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I. GENERAL SITUATION OF THE PROGRAMME

1. Since its modest start in 1980, in response to General Assembly resolution 33/147 of 20 December 1988, the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People has increasingly become a leading provider of development assistance for the benefit of the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2. The adherence to the consultative process specified in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions has formed the basis for the widespread support enjoyed by the Programme.

3. The special emphasis placed in previous years on solving the problems which had been hampering project implementation, has produced excellent results and made possible the large increase in delivery observed in 1990. As a result, greater attention can now be given to the programming of future activities.

4. As a follow-up to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-led inter-agency mission which in May 1991 formulated for immediate action an employment generation programme, the UNDP office in Jerusalem has undertaken a systematic identification and assessment exercise of the development assistance needs of the occupied Palestinian territories. The results of this exercise will serve as a basis for UNDP's future activities in the territories as well as for its resource mobilization efforts.

5. Special attention is also being given to the setting up of information exchange mechanisms and coordination with other United Nations agencies as well as with other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental aid donors.

II. PROGRAMME DELIVERY

6. After the total interruption of field work during the Gulf war, activities resumed at the same fast pace as in 1990. Consequently, the 1991 project expenditures are expected to reach a level close to that of 1990, i.e., $11 million.

III. FINANCIAL SITUATION

7. The core resources of the programme have been provided by the Governing Council through allocations from the Special Programme Resources (SPR).

These allocations are the following:

Second cycle (1980-1981)	-	$ 3.5 million
Third cycle (1982-1986)	-	$10.0 million
Fourth cycle (1987-1991)	-	$12.0 million
Fifth cycle (1992-1996)	-	$15.0 million

8. Since the inception of the programme, complementary resources have been provided by Italy ($8.7 million), Japan ($5 million), the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) ($1 million), United States of America ($1 million), Jordan ($457,000), Canada ($400,000), Greece ($80,000) and Tunisia ($48,500).

9. These non-core resources have been provided under funds-in-trust or management service agreements.

10. The Administrator wishes to express his appreciation for the growing financial support enjoyed by the programme.

IV. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Income generation

11. In the agriculture sector, new irrigation channels are being completed in the El-Duyuk area (West Bank), benefiting some 200 farmers, while modern irrigation equipment is now being distributed to farmers of the Gaza Strip within a project which is to benefit an additional 1,000 farmers.

12. In Jericho, a honey processing plant was installed, thereby completing a project which has provided 200 bee swarms and hives, medicines, training and technical support to nearly 300 beekeepers of both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

13. In Nablus, construction of a marketing centre and industrial zone is nearing completion. Consisting of three large buildings, it will house 87 shops and workshops for light industries as well as a refrigerated storage room of 500 cubic metres for agricultural products. Approximately 300 business people will benefit from these new and modern installations.

14. The Business Development Centre (BDC) is continuing its training activities in the fields of management, feasibility studies and marketing. The BDC will soon start its lending operations, and work on the most promising requests for financial support is now being finalized.

15. In Gaza, the construction of a packing and grading facility for fruits and vegetables has started. Its completion is expected by the end of 1991. It will handle 7 to 8 tons of non-citrus fruits and vegetables per day per shift.

16. The manufacturing of the equipment for the citrus processing plant to be installed in the Gaza Strip is progressing. The plant, which will have a capacity of 20 tons per hour and will thus be able to process one third of Gaza's citrus production, should be operational by the end of 1992.

Social sectors

17. The construction of four new schools was completed in 1991. Two are in Nablus, one in Hebron and the fourth in the Gaza Strip. Three others are under way in the West Bank. In addition, new laboratories are being constructed and will be completed before the end of the year at the Arab Medical College in Ramallah.

18. In the health field, rapid progress is being made on the construction of a new wing for the Hebron Hospital. It is expected that the wing will be completed by April 1992.

Infrastructure

19. Water supply schemes were finalized in 14 villages of the West Bank. They provided for the improvement of wells, the construction of pumping stations, the building of water reservoirs, and the installation of distribution networks and house connections. Over 80,000 Palestinians are benefiting from these various schemes.

20. In the energy field, by installing electricity generators in eight villages of the West Bank and training local villagers in their use, maintenance and repair, and so ensuring an independent and reliable supply of energy, UNDP helped to improve significantly the living and working conditions of some 45,000 Palestinians.

21. In the Gaza Strip, work is being finalized on the sewage collection, treatment and disposal systems in both the Jabaliya refugee camp and the City of Gaza. An operation and maintenance project has also been started with the purpose of fully training the technical staff of the Jabaliya village council and the Gaza municipality in order to ensure the smooth running of the systems after the end of UNDP assistance.

V. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

22. As a follow-up to the needs assessment exercise undertaken by the UNDP Office in Jerusalem, specific proposals for jointly funded activities will be made available to the donor community.

23. It is hoped that the generous support provided to the Programme so far will be further expanded, thereby permitting UNDP to increase its impact on the living conditions and employment opportunities of the Palestinian people as well as on the overall economic and social situation of the occupied Palestinian territories.